

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 65 and 66 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 15, 27, and 41 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

discrimination means for discriminating a process, in which an electronic watermark is to be applied to data that is to be registered, from among a plurality of different processes that are executed for the data to be registered; and

registration means for ~~registering the data to be registered and management information based on the discrimination by said discrimination means~~ setting a plurality of purposes of use for the same data and registering a process in which the electronic watermark is to be applied for each purpose of use, so that the electronic watermark is applied to the data to be registered during the process discriminated by said discrimination means based on the registration.

2. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said discrimination means discriminates between a process of registering the data and a process to be executed after registering the data.

3. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said discrimination means discriminates among one of a process of registering the data, a process of sending the registered data, and a process of printing the registered data.

4. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising output means for outputting the data after the electronic watermark has been removed from the data.

5. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

print means for printing the data after the electronic watermark has been removed from the data; and

display means for displaying data which the electronic watermark is applied to.

6. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the process of printing the registered data is for sending the data to a printer.

7. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the electronic watermark is removed from the data when the data is sent to the printer.

8. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the printer deletes data received from said information processing apparatus when print of the data is completed.

9. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein during printing of the data by the printer, the printer does not halt printing of the data even upon receiving of a halting instruction.

10. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said discrimination means further discriminates a method of applying an electronic watermarking method among plurality of electronic watermarking methods.

11. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said plurality of electronic watermarking methods include at the least a first method for employing an electronic watermark as visible information, and a second method for employing an electronic watermark as invisible information.

12. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said plurality of electronic watermarking methods include at the least a third method for employing an electronic watermark as removable information, and a fourth method for employing an electronic watermark as unremovable information.

13. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said discrimination means further discriminates electronic watermark information to be applied to the data.

14. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising management means for managing the process discriminated by said discrimination means for each registered data.

15. (Currently Amended) An information processing system that executes a plurality of different processes for data to be provided by a user, comprising:

discrimination means for discriminating a process, in which an electronic watermark is to be applied to data that is to be registered, from among the plurality of different processes;

registration means for ~~registering the data to be registered and management information based on the discrimination by said discrimination means~~ setting a plurality of purposes of use for the same data and registering a process in which the electronic watermark is to be applied for each purpose of use; and

applying means for applying an electronic watermark to the data provided by a ~~sure~~ user during the process ~~designated by the management information~~ discriminated by said discrimination means based on the registration by said registration means.

16. - 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A control method for an information processing apparatus comprising:

a discrimination step of discriminating a process, in which an electronic watermark is to be applied to data that is to be registered, from among a plurality of different processes that are executed for the data to be registered; and

a registration step of ~~registering the data to be registered and management information based on the discrimination in said discrimination step~~ setting a plurality of purposes of use for the same data and registering a process in which the electronic watermark is to be applied for each purpose of use, so that the electronic watermark is applied to the data to be registered during the process discriminated in said discrimination step based on the registration.

28. - 40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A control method for a system that executes a plurality of different processes for data to be provided by a user, comprising:

a discrimination step of discriminating a process, in which an electronic watermark is to be applied to data that is to be registered, from among the plurality of different processes;

a registration step of ~~registering the data to be registered and management information based on the discrimination in said discrimination step~~ setting a plurality of purposes of use for the same data and registering a process in which the electronic watermark is to be applied for each purpose of use; and

an applying step of applying an electronic watermark to the data provided by a user during the process ~~designated by the management information~~ discriminated by said discrimination step based on the registration in said registration step.

42. - 67. (Canceled)